

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 10, 11, 15-19, and 21 without prejudice.

Please add new claims 22 and 23 as follows:

24/22. (New) A flexible stent for implantation in a body lumen and expandable from a contracted condition to an expanded condition, comprising:

a plurality of adjacent cylindrical elements which are expandable in the radial direction and arranged in alignment along a longitudinal stent axis;

the cylindrical elements formed in a serpentine wave pattern transverse to the longitudinal axis and containing a plurality of alternating peaks and valleys;

at least one interconnecting member extending between adjacent cylindrical elements and connecting them to one another;

at least one reinforcing member extending across a width of the alternating peaks and valleys, the reinforcing member curved opposite to the respective peaks and valleys, lying in the same circumferential plane as the cylindrical elements and having a configuration that is essentially parallel to the longitudinal axis when the stent is in the contracted condition and configured to limit the radial expansion of the cylindrical elements; and

the serpentine pattern containing varying degrees of curvature in regions of the peaks and valleys adapted so that radial expansion of the adjacent cylindrical elements is substantially uniform around their circumferences during expansion of the stent from the contracted condition to the expanded condition.

idea
reinforcing member
having a smaller
radius of curvature
than the peaks and valleys.

23. (New) A flexible stent for implantation in a body lumen and expandable from a contracted condition to an expanded condition, comprising:

a plurality of adjacent cylindrical elements which are expandable in the radial direction and arranged in alignment along a longitudinal stent axis;

the cylindrical elements formed in a serpentine wave pattern transverse to the longitudinal axis and containing a plurality of alternating peaks and valleys;

at least one interconnecting member extending between adjacent cylindrical elements and connecting them to one another;

at least one reinforcing member extending across a width of the alternating peaks and valleys, the reinforcing member lying in the same circumferential plane as the cylindrical elements and having a configuration that is essentially parallel to the longitudinal axis when the stent is in the contracted condition and configured to limit the radial expansion of the cylindrical elements; and

the serpentine pattern containing varying degrees of curvature in regions of the peaks and valleys adapted so that radial expansion of the adjacent cylindrical elements is substantially uniform around their circumferences during expansion of the stent from the contracted condition to the expanded condition;

wherein the stent is coated with a biocompatible coating.